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HAPPY 'BACK TO THE FUTURE II' DAY!

Here's what it and other futuristic films got wrong. 18

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Opera Philly's new fest caters to binge watchers. 8-9

BEASTS OF THE LEAST

The Eagles lead the NFC East — but that's not really saying much. 26, 28-29

GETTY IMAGES

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SCALE BACK SCREENINGS

1 In a major shift, the American Cancer Society is recommending women at average risk of breast cancer get annual mammograms starting at age 45 rather than at age 40, and that women 55 and older scale back screening to every other year. REUTERS

YALE TO KEEP PAINTING

2 An appeals court upheld a lower court ruling allowing Yale University to keep a painting by Vincent van Gogh, denying a request by the great-grandson of a Russian art collector to argue his ownership of the painting. The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New York ruled the arguments made by Pierre Konowaloff, the great-grandson of art collector Ivan Abramovich Morozov, lacked merit. The 1888 oil painting, titled "The Night Café," once belonged to Morozov. REUTERS

ODOM MOVED TO LA

3 Lamar Odom, hospitalized in Nevada for nearly a week after collapsing in a brothel where officials said he had used cocaine, was reportedly discharged Monday and sent to a Los Angeles-area facility for more treatment. Odom, 35, was flown by helicopter from the Sunrise Hospital and Medical Center in Las Vegas. REUTERS

BUILDING TOWARD A TALL RECORD

7 Sand sculptors work on creating what they hope will be the world's tallest sand castle when it is completed at the Virginia Key Beach on Tuesday in Key Biscayne, Florida. Turkish Airlines is sponsoring the castle, which is being built by Sand Sculpture Co. The sculptors will use about 1,800 tons of sand in an attempt to beat the world record of 41 feet, 3.67 inches. GETTY IMAGES

7 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

CANADA ELECTION WIN

4 Canada's Liberal leader Justin Trudeau rode a late surge to a stunning majority election victory, toppling Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservatives with a promise of change and returning a touch of glamour, youth and charisma to Ottawa. Trudeau has said he will repair Canada's cool relations with the Obama administration. REUTERS

CYBER SECURITY BILL

5 The Senate is expected to begin considering as soon as Tuesday a long-delayed bill that would make it easier for corporations to share information about cyber attacks with each other or the government without concern about lawsuits. The House of Representatives passed its version of the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act in April with strong support from Republicans and Democrats. Senate Republican Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said the Senate could pass the bill within days. REUTERS

AUTOMATED ADIDAS

6 Adidas aims to open its first fully automated shoe factory in Germany next year, part of an effort to bring manufacturing closer to its consumers in more affluent countries. The sporting goods maker signed an agreement to obtain technology from German engineering group Manz. REUTERS

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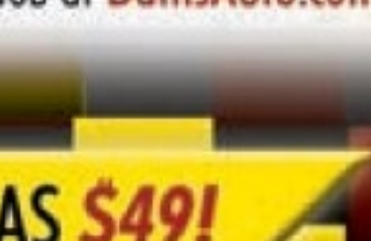

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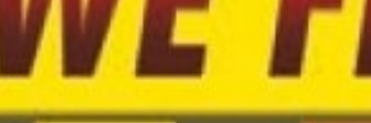

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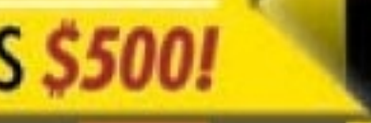

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BRIEFS

Teen girl reported missing
Philadelphia Police are looking for a 13-year-old girl who was last seen Monday morning as she was leaving for school.

Hanniya Mitchell attends Bryant Elementary School at 6001 Cedar Ave. Police say she apparently left her house on the 400 block of S. 62nd Stret at about 6:30 a.m. but has not attended school since she was reported missing.

Hanniya is 4'6", 115 lbs, with brown eyes, a dark brown complexion and black, wavy, shoulder-length hair. She was last seen wearing a blue polo shirt, khaki pants, a gold jacket with fur and red sneakers. METRO

Second man sought in home invasion
Police arrested one suspect and are searching for another after interrupting a kidnapping and home invasion.

According to police, a woman on the 3100 block of N. "F" Street woke up to find two men standing over her at about 3 a.m. They beat her boyfriend with a hammer, tied him up then kidnapped her and forced her to drive to an ATM where she handed over $100.

In a downstairs apartment, the men tied up a 26-year-old woman. She was able to escape. She ran out the door calling for help.

When police responded, they saw the kidnapped woman pull in front of the house – returned there after her trip to the ATM. With her were two suspects, one with his face covered and carrying a hammer. One suspect was arrested; the other one got away. The suspect who was arrested was not identified. METRO

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Democratic candidate for mayor Jim Kenney speaks in a school at a previous campaign event.

Mayoral candidates hear what kids want

Philly kids have very basic needs, they told politicians.

DAN KELLEY
@MetroPhilly
dan.kelley@metro.us

The two candidates running for mayor heard Tuesday morning what students in Philadelphia public schools want— the basics.

Playgrounds free from rusty, dangerous equipment. Classrooms that don't leak. Art and music classes.

Diamond Noville, a fourth-grader at Julia Ward Howe Elementary School, told Republican Melissa Murray Bailey and Democrat Jim Kenney her family has been affected by gun violence.

"I want them to take away all the guns in our city and give them to the police, who need them," Noville said.

The one hour Q&A session, sponsored by the Rendell Center for Civic Engagement, featured skits by fourth- and fifth-graders.

One common refrain from the skits: "They'll never listen to us."

"I wish our school had an ID swiping system to keep intruders out when there is a crime on the street and we are on lockdown," was a line from a student from a skit performed by Julia De Burgos Elementary.

Kenney, for his part, railed against the NRA, which has made it hard for the city to enact gun control measures. He also called for a community school model that would place medical and social services in schools.

Bailey said Philadelphians need to stop waiting for Harrisburg to solve the district's cash problems.

"The things you said are basic things," Bailey told students from Isaac Sheppard Elementary School.

That school's skit contained this line: "I remember my mom telling me that when she was in school they had art and music class."

"We'll never have

CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Kids at the talk speak with former Gov. Ed Rendell. DAN KELLEY

"I remember my mom telling me that when she was in school they had art and music class."

One of the fourth-grade students

anything like that in our schools," came the reply.

Kenney said he would let corporations rent the city's luxury suites at sports and music venues, and give the money to the Philadelphia School Fund for music and art instruction. Teachers could then apply for grants from the fund to use toward art and music.

Both candidates acknowledged that the growth in charter school enrollments are eating up a larger percentage of the school district's budget. The reason, financial analysts say, is that when one or two students leave a school the district cannot shed costs associated with those students, while at the same time, it pays charters what it would have cost to educate those children.

Bailey said the answer was to turn entire underperforming schools over to charters — a move that would allow the district to eliminate costs faster.

Kenney said he believed the charter school funding model shortchanged public schools.

"Just give us back the money we're losing," Kenney said.

Asked if he was surprised by the things the students were asking for, Kenney, a city councilman for two decades, said, "Kids can always teach you something."

Bailey, asked the same thing, said, "These are things that 4th and 5th graders should be thinking about."

Wesley Ewing, a teacher at Ward Howe Elementary, said kids can be counted on to tell the truth.

"It's not something that's read in a book," Ewing said. "These are true experiences in their words."

BRIEFS

Gunmen blast open ATM with shotgun

Two men entered a Chinese-food takeout store Sunday morning and tried to use a shotgun to blast open an ATM machine.

Surveillance video shows the shotgun blasts helping the men get access to the machine, but police say the suspects did not get any cash. According to police, a worker in the Ming River Restaurant at 2100 block of E. Cambria Street was in the back cleaning at

1:47 a.m. when he heard three shotgun blasts. He walked toward the front and saw the suspects blasting the cash machine with a pump shotgun with a pistol grip. A third suspect seen on surveillance video acting as a lookout.

After running from the store, the suspects got into a two-door vehicle. Anyone with information is asked to call Philadelphia police. DAN KELLEY

Philly mom gets 25 years for exploitation

Christine Yoder, 32, of Oxford Circle, was sentenced to 25 years in prison for offering her young daughter for sexual favors on the Internet.

Yoder pleaded guilty to sending a sexually explicit photograph of her 6-year-old daughter to an undercover FBI agent she met on the Internet and agreed to fly her daughter to Detroit for sexual activity.

Using the instant messaging app Kik, she told the agent, "I don't want anything to do with her after you take her," according to court documents.

Yoder pleaded guilty to two counts of producing child pornography and two counts of distributing child pornography. METRO

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Fracking could be a risk to children

A gas pad derrick is set up for a fracking operation. CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Environmentalists draw attention to the proximity of kids to frack wells.

SAM NEWHOUSE
@scnewhouse
sam.newhouse@metro.us

An environmental research group's latest report said ongoing fracking operations may be causing health risks for children that live and play nearby.

The report found 45 schools and 54 child care providers are located within half a mile of fracking wells. If the radius is expanded to 2 miles, that number goes up to 476 schools and 467 child care providers. PennEnvironment estimates that statewide more than 53,000 children under age 10 live within a mile of a permitted fracking well site.

And even though the report does not include specific cases of children sickened by their proximity to fracking, Dr. Walter Tsou, president emeritus of Philadelphia Physicians, said he has no doubt that such cases exist. He described Pennsylvania as the "blinded guinea pig" of the health effects of fracking.

"Why is that we have suppressed these known health effects? I think it is because there is money to be made in fracking. People are putting aside and ignoring these potential health consequences," Tsou said.

Symptoms reported by residents who live around fracking operations include nausea, respiratory problems, headaches and eye irritation. A study by John Hopkins University released last week found expectant mothers living near fracking operations are 40 percent more likely to give birth prematurely.

"We're not gathering this data. We have no way of following these people."
McDermott-Levy

Tsou also claimed that individuals in proximity to fracking sites who have reported illnesses are being required to sign non-disclosure agreements in return for compensation.

Tsou said the debate over whether fracking actually damages health could be illuminated by independent before-and-after studies of air and water around fracking sites for signs of pollutants.

"The industry actually refuses to encourage such studies, even though they say it is safe," Tsou said.

Ruth McDermott-Levy, a Villanova University professor, said reports from the state Department of Environmental Protection have found that air quality is impacted by fracking, and that fracking is also associated with rising levels of radon gas, but that this kind of research is not being collected.

"We're not gathering this data. We have no way of following these people," she said.

David Masur, executive director of PennEnvironment, said while there are no specific cases of children sickened by proximity to fracking in the report, scientific evidence strongly suggests fracking puts these children at risk.

"It is often hard to connect any one environmental factor with health problems … it's a little like asking which is the one cigarette that gives someone lung cancer," Masur said.

PennEnvironment and health experts who reviewed and signed the report recommend policies such as a 1-mile border between fracking operations and schools, hospitals, nursing care facilities or child care providers, creating a public health registry for individuals to report issues associated with fracking, and banning open-air waste pits used to store flowback water used in fracking.

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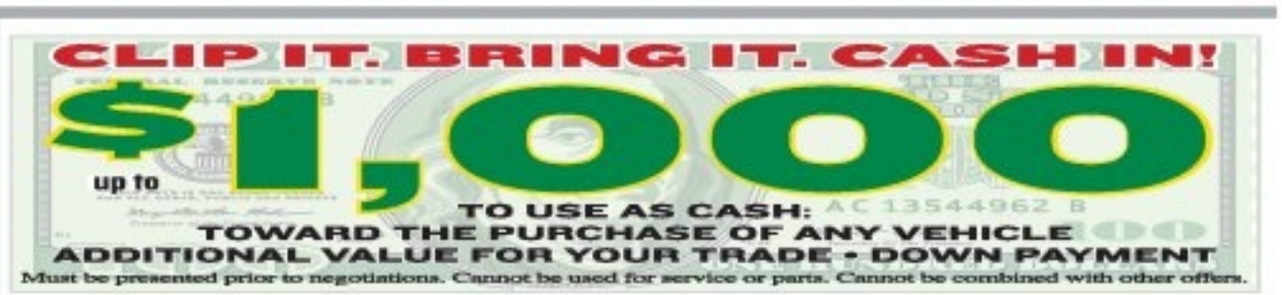
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New Philly opera fest designed for

Opera Philly is looking to attract younger viewers with a new festival.

A.D. AMOROSI
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letters@metro.us

When Opera Philadelphia's general director, David B. Devan, signed a contract Oct. 1 to stay through the end of the 2019-2020 season, it wasn't just because he likes this city's restaurants.

"Our mission has just begun," Devan said about making the opera company into something as profitable as it is adventurous. "We do not resemble that same company of 2006, not in terms of support and notoriety, nationally and locally."

On Oct. 20, Devan announced an urban opera festival — "O" — that will open each season starting in 2017.

"It's the Netflix effect," Devan said of the festival's concept. "You used to plan your week when your show was coming on, like you'd plan for an opera subscription. Now, though you can binge watch for 12 days straight at O17 and still catch the traditional network programming of a season."

"It's the Netflix effect ... you can binge watch for 12 days straight at O17."

Devan

Since coming on board in 2006 to with a mandate to turn around Philly's opera fortunes, Devan has done just that.

Recent seasons of Opera Philadelphia have been its most profitable. From making just over $7 million in its 2010-11 Season, the 2014-15 season booked revenue of $11 million.

"Plus our contributed revenue exploding by 103%, which means we're getting more audience members and people voting with philanthropic dollars," Devan noted.

Opera Philadelphia has undergone studies that have found adventurous and avant-garde fare, such as an Andy Warhol-themed opera and a work based on the life of saxophonist Charlie Parker attract a wider, younger demographic. These new opera-goers are not as drawn to the subscription series model as older patrons once were.

"Twenty-seven percent of our single ticket buyers are 25-to-34–year-olds," Devan said. "Re-

Opera Philadelphia stagings of Verdi's "La Traviata," Mozart's "Don Giovanni"; inset: general director David Devan. PROVIDED

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‘binge watching’

search tells us that we’re skewing to a younger audience and single ticket buyers and that our older demo still likes subscriptions. My job is to connect the dots.”

That thinking led to something revolutionary, not only for Opera Philadelphia, but for opera in general.

While opera companies worldwide do either a festival or a season of shows, Philly Opera will do both: It will feature the O Festival in September 2017 and follow it with a full season of three shows at the Academy of Music and one or more chamber works at the Kimmel Center.

“O17” as Devan calls it, represents a radical way to experience opera. It’s not unlike Philly’s Fringe Festival in that it presents longer works in traditional theaters, and shorter pieces in untraditional spots.

Devan compared O17 to the way television is consumed today.

“We’re doing longer traditional pieces a la ‘Masterpiece Theater’ as well as bite-size shorter operas, contemporary and dense, like how ‘The Sopranos’ packed all its drama into 60 minutes without intermission.”

Because Opera Philadelphia’s composers-in-residence and singers are all under 30 years old, they grew up with this hyperdramatic sensitivity. With that, Devan is asking audiences to treat Opera Philadelphia how they would new television.

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Autumn leaves are blowing

Halloween decorations are going up around Philly and temps are going down as autumn sets in. Temperatures were in the 40s Monday and Tuesday, but highs of 75 are forecast for Wednesday and Thursday before the mercury heads back down into the 60s. CHARLES MOSTOLLER

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7 Things You Must Know Before Putting Your Home Up for Sale

Philadelphia - A new report has just been released which reveals 7 costly mistakes that most homeowners make when selling their home, and a 9 Step System that can help you sell your home fast and for the most amount of money.

This industry report shows clearly how the traditional ways of selling homes have become increasingly less and less effective in today's market. The fact of the matter is that fully three quarters of homesellers don't get what they want for their homes and become disillusioned and - worse - financially disadvantaged when they put their homes on the market.

As this report uncovers, most homesellers make 7 deadly mistakes that cost them literally thousands of dollars. The good news is that each and every one of these mistakes is entirely preventable. In answer to this issue, industry insiders have prepared a free special report entitled "The 9 Step System to Get Your Home Sold Fast and For Top Dollar".

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Philippines to deport US Marine facing murder trial after his sentence

Pemberton faces jail term of 20 years to life if found guilty. A verdict is expected in December.

Joseph Scott Pemberton GETTY IMAGES

Gender rights activists and students gather in Manila. GETTY IMAGES

The Philippine Immigration Bureau has ordered the deportation a U.S. Marine once his trial and possible sentence for the murder of a transgender woman a year ago are over, a spokeswoman said Tuesday.

Lance Cpl. Joseph Scott Pemberton, who is being held at a U.S. facility at a military base in Manila, has been charged with the murder of Jennifer Laude, who was found dead Oct. 11, 2014, in a hotel in Olongapo City, near a former U.S. naval base north of Manila.

Elaine Tan, spokeswoman for the immigration bureau, said Pemberton was declared "a risk to public interest for being an undesirable alien" and would be deported once his murder trial and any subsequent jail term were over.

Pemberton would be deported even if the court found him not guilty, she said. REUTERS

BRIEF

U.S. ends probe of Wal-Mart on "Made in USA" logos

The Federal Trade Commission, which enforces laws against deceptive ads, said Tuesday it had closed a probe of Wal-Mart Stores Inc. after the company addressed the problem of products advertised as "Made in USA" that were not.

The FTC closed the probe without action after Wal-Mart dropped all "Made in USA" logos from products on its website, the FTC said in a letter to the company that was posted on the agency's website.

Wal-Mart has since redesigned its "Made in USA" logos for some products to better indicate how much of the product was made domestically and how much was made overseas, the FTC noted in its letter.

"Based on your actions and other factors, the staff has decided not to pursue this investigation any further," FTC staff attorney Julia Solomon Ensor wrote in the letter.

The problem arose as Wal-Mart sought to fulfill a pledge made in 2013 to buy an extra $250 billion in U.S.-made goods over a decade to support U.S. manufacturing jobs. The world's largest retailer by revenue has faced criticism by unions and others that its low-cost business model was a big factor in pushing manufacturing jobs offshore.

The watchdog group Truth in Advertising found 100 instances of mislabeled products in June and raised them with the company. The group found another 100 in July and took the information to the FTC, said Legal Director Laura Smith.

"In light of the company's steps to address the issues, we're not surprised that the investigation has been closed," Smith said.

Wal-Mart said it was pleased with the decision. "We're committed to reviewing and strengthening our processes," said spokesman Kory Lundberg. REUTERS

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The problem with the 'cost of living' formula

Protecting all Medicare beneficiaries from the increase would cost $10 billion to $12 billion. "The question will be, 'Is that a reasonable number?'" says Stacy Sanders, federal policy director for the Medicare Rights Center. ISTOCK

Seniors will not be getting a cost-of-living adjustment in Social Security benefits this year, setting off a fresh debate about the program's inflation formula and its impact on Medicare premiums.

The Social Security Administration confirmed this week that benefit payments will stay flat next year due to unusually low energy prices, which have kept overall inflation rates down.

Not a matter of choice

By law, the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) is determined by a formula that ties it to the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), which is compiled by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. But the CPI-W gauges a market basket of goods and services of working people — who tend to be younger and spend less on health care than seniors.

This has a couple of repercussions. One is that, since there is no COLA, the maximum earnings subject to the Social Security tax will remain at $118,500 next year; also unchanged, at $15,720, is the amount of income from work exempt from the "retirement earnings test" penalty, which is applied to people who claim benefits before their full retirement age.

Another creates an imbalance in Medicare Part B premiums. Medicare has forecast a 52 percent hike in Part B premiums, to $159.30, that will affect 30 percent of Medicare enrollees — about 16.5 million people.

The majority of enrollees will not face any increase because there is a "hold-harmless" provision in federal law that protects most people from Part B increases if there is no corollary cost-of-living increase in Social Security.

Why a legislative fix is a must

Anyone who is delaying filing for benefits faces an increase, as well as some federal retirees and many state government workers — most of whom participate in defined-benefit pension plans and are not covered by Social Security during their tenure as state employees.

Also exposed are low-income "dual-eligible" seniors who receive Social Security and also participate in both Medicare and state-run Medicaid programs. Their premiums are absorbed by state Medicaid budgets. Higher-income beneficiaries subject to an income-adjusted Part B premium are subject to the higher premium — so are people who enroll in Medicare for the first time next year.

Bills have been introduced in the Senate and House that would hold premiums steady for all beneficiaries next year. The deductible for Part B for all beneficiaries would stay at $147, staving off a projected increase to $223.

Advocates for seniors are optimistic that a short-term fix will happen — despite the current chaotic situation in the House of Representatives. "There will be a bigger spontaneous grassroots reaction to this than we might normally expect," says Nancy LeaMond, who heads government affairs at AARP. REUTERS

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Zooey Deschanel's baby name not as terrible as expected

Before you freak out about uber-quirky goddess Zooey Deschanel's chosen name for her new daughter, just remind yourself it could've been so, so much worse. She could've gone with something like Scrimshaw or Bethesda or, I don't know, Artisanal. But then, I'd be disappointed with anything Deschanel chose that wasn't Siri Is That Rain. So what did Deschanel and husband Jacob Pechenik go with for their 3-month-old daughter? Elsie Otter, the new mom confirms to People magazine. "Otter, like the animal," she clarifies. Oh, great. Actually, come to think of it, this is a little disappointing. Zooey, we expected so much more from you. The Otter bit is odd, sure, but it's the middle name. And there's nothing overly cutesy or twee about Elsie. What gives?

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

the word

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Ryan Sweeting seeking spousal support

First Brian Austin Green, now Ryan Sweeting. Divorcing men seeking spousal support from their more successful estranged wives is really turning into a thing. One more, and it's a trend! "Big Bang Theory" star Kaley Cuoco has been hit with a request for spousal support from her tennis star ex Ryan Sweeting, according to Us Weekly. He's also apparently asked that the court's ability to grant Kuoco similar support be terminated, so you know he's serious. Hey, shouldn't this have been covered in their prenup?

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Lil Dicky: Success was no surprise

The comedic rapper says topping the charts all comes down to logic.

A.D. AMOROSI
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Lil Dicky plays a sold out show at Underground Arts on Sunday. PROVIDED

Lil Dicky wasn't too surprised that his sarcastic debut album, "Professional Rapper," took the top spot on two Billboard charts — rap and comedy — in August. He's used to succeeding: His whiny first single, 2013's "Ex-Boyfriend," had more than a million views on YouTube in 24 hours. His recent single, the goofy "$ave Dat Money," got more than 4 million streams, with most of its clicks coming from YouTube, according to Nielsen Music. The charm of Lil Dicky's brand of caustic comic hip-hop is that he sounds like all three Beastie Boys rolled into one skinny dude.

"Honestly, it wasn't that shocking," says Dicky (real name David Hurd) of the chart-topping achievement. "Comedy? Of course, it would be No. 1. Rap was harder to accomplish, but when you see what else came out that day and consider the competition, it's great, but just comes down to timing."

Dicky comes at hip-hop and comedy pragmatically, backed by a degree from the Robins School of Business at the University of Richmond. "I hope all that doesn't sound arrogant," he adds. "I mean, of course I had a dream as a kid and having it happen is an amazing achievement. It's still all just logical."

Dicky wasn't always so cogent. The Cheltenham native was a goofball growing up. "I was the kid who made everyone laugh," he says. As far as hip-hop went, he was a fan of Jay Z and Nas in grade school, and Kanye West and Lil Wayne while at Cheltenham High.

Post-college, Dicky spent two years writing songs before releasing singles such as "Ex-Boyfriend." His quick success buoyed him to tour with a business-school-approved PowerPoint presentation of his five-year plan. "I'm still using a similar presentation for my new Looking for Love tour, but instead of graphs, I'm going to make it a 'Dating Game' thing where we'll bring up girls and have them compete for my heart," he says. "That sounds like fun, doesn't it?"

Calling in favors

Lil Dicky's "$ave Dat Money" is all about cutting costs to a bare minimum while filming a music video — "the most epic video for no money," he says. In the mini-film, Dicky talks homeowners with nice pools, car dealerships with hot wheels, directors already using video sets and club managers with smoky stages to allow him to use their digs for zero cash. Dicky also enlists any celebrity that he's ever made contact with, including fellow rapper Fetty Wap, entrepreneur Mark Cuban, comedians Hannibal Buress and Sarah Silverman and classic rocker Tom Petty.

"Petty's stepson Dylan is a big fan of mine who we ran into at one of my shows," says Dicky. "He told me if I ever wanted to meet his dad, just call him. So, I called in that favor and every other one I could think of."

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TYLER GOURLEY

Kaskade talks about his new album, haters and what people get wrong about the EDM scene.

EMILY LAURENCE
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There's a reason the first track on Kaskade's album, "Automatic," is titled "We Don't Stop." He really hasn't. His last album, "Atmosphere," was such a massive success that he's been touring nonstop since 2013.

"I usually take time off to write, and I'm in the clubs thinking about what I want to play at my next show," Kaskade (real name Ryan Raddon) says of putting together an album. "But with this one, I was writing between gigs, so it was more like, 'Everything is so loud. Maybe I [will] make something a little quieter right

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That's not to say "Automatic" is only chill tracks. Kaskade's most diverse album yet, it offers plenty of up-tempo songs to keep the energy high. It also features his most collaborations to date.

"When I was writing my first record [15 years ago], nobody wanted to work with someone making electronic music," he says. "People were like, 'What is that?'"

He doesn't have that problem anymore.

Self-discovery

Kaskade, 44, discovered dance music when he was in high school and says he was drawn not only to the music but to the culture.

"I was that typical kid in high school where I was angry and didn't fit in. I went out and discovered club culture, and the people were very open and accepting."

He liked the DIY aspect of sitting with machines and manipulating music, transforming it into something new. It didn't take long for him to get hooked on creating his own sound.

Stadium tours and radio play

Kaskade routinely performs for stadium crowds, but says much of the EDM scene is still cloaked in mystery.

"That comes from being outside pop culture," he says. "I do very little press. The information isn't out there. But that's what's so fascinating. I can sell 40,000 tickets in San Francisco and still not have a song on the radio."

EDM is not just for druggies

He says he often confronts misconceptions about EDM, such as the belief that everyone in the scene is on drugs. "I have to eat clean and stay healthy in order to do this," he says.

Another misconception is that his job is as simple as clicking an iTunes playlist. "I get it in my own [Instagram] feed," he says. "I'll post a picture of one of my shows and 15,000 people will be there and someone will comment, 'Learn to do something.' Like playing an entire set or my music that I wrote? What are you saying?"

Still, he says what's most important is that people are discovering his music. "It's hard to understand this stuff. I don't blame anyone."

On touring

The performance is another element of his job as an artist that many brush off. Kaskade's shows are full-on productions, and he spends months working with graphic designers and stage designers to help bring his music to life.

"What people are seeing and experiencing as they hear the music is extremely important to me," he says. "I want people to walk away from a show being like, 'Man, I've always been a fan of Kaskade, but that was amazing. It changed me.'"

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6 Forward-looking films that got the future wrong

Today is the day Marty McFly and Doc Brown visited in "Back to the Future II." The movie didn't get much right. But it's not the only one whose imagination was too ambitious for our dumb world.

MATT PRIGGE

"ESCAPE FROM NEW YORK" (1981)

"Escape from New York." PROVIDED

Year shown: 1997

What it got wrong: John Carpenter's piece of future shock finds badass con Snake Plissken (Kurt Russell) sent to rescue the president (Donald Pleasance) after he's kidnapped in 1997's Manhattan, which had become so crime-infested that the government walled it up, turning it into an island-size prison. In reality the opposite happened: Manhattan became a gated community for the rich.

What it got right: The closest thing is the part where Plissken destroys an important cassette tape, which could be read as symbolic of the way the medium would be finally killed as burnable CDs took over the market.

"BACK TO THE FUTURE PART II" (1989)

In the 2015 of Marty McFly (Michael J. Fox), they have flying cars. PROVIDED

Year shown: 2015 (Oct. 21, to be exact)

What it got wrong: Marty (Michael J. Fox) and Doc Brown (Christopher Lloyd) time travel forward in the series' first sequel, winding up in a town riddled with hoverboards, clothes that can adjust size, pizzas that microwave in seconds and "Jaws" holograms. This all sounds cool, but something that doesn't is middle-aged Marty's penchant for wearing two ties at once.

What it got right: Well, the Cubs, once the laughingstock of baseball, are doing pretty well despite a loss over the weekend. And videoconferencing, as seen in a scene with special guest star Flea, happened. And hoverboards ... sort of exist, except they have wheels and are only ridden by the most annoying people in the world.

"UNTIL THE END OF THE WORLD" (1991)

Solveig Dommartin gets hooked in "Until the End of the World." PROVIDED

Year shown: 1999

What it got wrong: Wim Wenders' "ultimate road movie" is just that: It spans four continents, seven countries and 15 cities, and the original cut runs over five hours. It's also set in 1999, when the world is threatened by an out-of-control satellite, which we avoided.

What it got right: Actually, a lot. There are GPS gizmos in cars, widescreen television sets and, most eerily of all, smartphone-like gadgets that consume their users' lives, turning them into antisocial addicts. There's also the way the world has become a giant global playground. About the only ways it overshot were with a device that gives eyesight to the blind (sort of) and another that records dreams — but those, surely, are en route.

"DEATH RACE 2000" (1975)

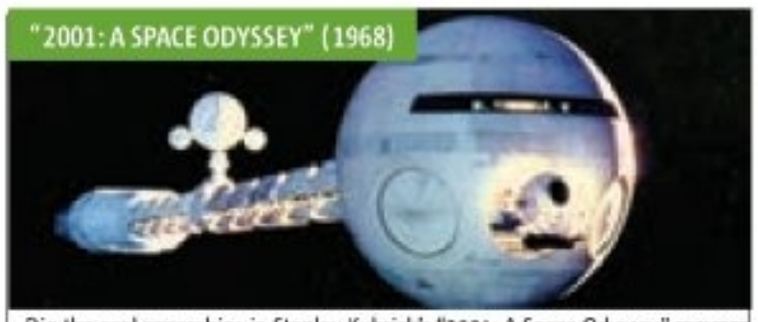
Two typically goofy cars in Paul Bartel's "Death Race 2000." PROVIDED

Year shown: 2000

What it got wrong: The campy dystopia envisions a future in which the masses would rally around an annual cross-country wacky race. It also didn't realize that Sylvester Stallone, merely third-billed, was one year from becoming Rocky Balboa.

What it got right: The '70s teemed with sci-fi about societies salivating over gruesome sport. Though these films oversold future humankind's bloodlust, the idea of terrible reality TV still became too real.

"2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY" (1968)



Dig the cool spaceships in Stanley Kubrick's "2001: A Space Odyssey." PROVIDED

Year shown: 2001 (and thereabouts)

What it got wrong: The most beautiful and exquisitely made retro vision of the future, filmed on the cusp of Neil Armstrong's moon walk, couldn't have predicted that in 2015 space exploration is close to dunzo. We also don't yet have HAL-level A.I. Oh, and we're still being ignored by the rest of the universe.

What it got right: A good chunk of the film dotes on its many tech toys, sometimes merely observing how things in the future work. But it did predict video chatting.

"STRANGE DAYS" (1995)

Ralph Fiennes has cool VR headgear in "Strange Days." PROVIDED

Year shown: 1999

What it got wrong: Directed by Kathryn Bigelow and written by her ex-husband James Cameron, this thriller offered a gadget that plugs directly into people's cerebral cortex, allowing them to record first-person video and then replay the experiences as though they were happening again. Sounds like an awful tech toy that's in the works.

What it got right: Like "Until the End of the World," it foresaw technology that would allow us to disappear inside ourselves.

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Tower of power

Colin Hanks brings his long-awaited documentary of the legendary record store chain to the screen.

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Nearly a decade ago, actor Colin Hanks began turning his nostalgia and affection for the beloved Tower Records, which closed its doors in 2006, into a documentary chronicling the history of the store and its impact on the music world.

This film has taken seven years to make. How does it feel to be done?
Awesome. It is a very different feeling directing a film and having people see it than acting in it. When I'm an actor, it's not really my movie — it's the director's movie. I don't want to give the feeling I'm not invested in those — I am. But with this, I am completely invested. We spent seven years of our lives putting this together, and there were times we didn't think it was going to happen, that we'd have to just throw in the towel.

Of the big-name interviews in the film, who was the toughest to get?
Elton John was the hardest only in so much as it was really about his schedule. He definitely wanted to do it. It was just about finding the time to do it because he's on tour. Dave Grohl was actually the easiest one. I had heard through the grapevine about some stories about when he worked at Tower — stuff like Grohl vandalizing a Michael Jackson poster outside and then taking a Polaroid of it and slipping it under the door for the manager to see.

GETTY IMAGES

And Bruce Springsteen?
Bruce is Bruce. He's awesome. He said, "I don't have that many stories about Tower." I said, "Bruce, all I need is one."

Next are you doing Kim's Video? Or Canal Jeans?
We were going to say Radio Shack. [Laughs] A few years ago, everyone was like, "You going to do the Blockbuster doc next?"

But Tower wasn't a chain in the same way Blockbuster was.
No, which is really why we made the doc. Once we really started getting into what made Tower special, that really influenced us into really having to make this documentary. At first it was, "I didn't know they started in a drugstore and ended like this, what a crazy journey." But then as we met [owner] Russ [Solomon] and learned about the family dynamic with everybody there, we just realized there's so much more here than just "stores opened on these dates." The fact that each Tower was special, each Tower was different, each Tower was like a mom-and-pop record store — people might not necessarily know that, but if they think back on it, they'll realize that is true. The buyers in the different stores represented their city.

It's not like we're talking about Sam Goody here.
No, no. No. Exactly.

For the "All Things Must Pass" premiere, the old Sunset Strip Tower Records location was reopened for one night only. GETTY IMAGES

NYC's record store problem

Do you have any thoughts on the changing record store landscape in New York?
It's definitely a bummer that if you want to go to a really great record store, you've kind of got to go to Brooklyn — not that I'm complaining on Brooklyn. I'm not disrespecting it in the slightest. But yeah, that's the hard thing. The city is sort of pricing everybody out. Obviously, record stores have enough on their plate as is to add increasing rent and stuff. That's no good. It's sad, it's a bummer. But there's still Other Music or Rough Trade.

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Making up words in Westeros

Language expert David Peterson created High Valyrian for "Game of Thrones" from scratch.

DMITRY BELYAEV
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Daenerys Targaryen, right, had to learn to speak Dothraki after marrying Khal Drogo on "Game of Thrones." HBO

M'athchomaroon! Rytsas! That's "hello" in the fictional languages Dothraki and High Valyrian, respectively, used by characters in the hit HBO series "Game of Thrones." For these fabled tongues of Westeros we can thank David J. Peterson, a 34-year-old linguistics expert whose philological creations also include the exotic languages heard in the Syfy drama series "Defiance." Peterson, who has a new book, "The Art of Language Invention," tells us what it takes to craft an entirely new language.

How did you get into the language creation business?
I created my first language as a freshman student at UC Berkeley, in the fall of 2000. At that time I had studied Arabic, Russian and Esperanto, and I was taking my first class in linguistics.

How difficult is it to create a completely new language?
It's is a marathon, not a sprint. Language is a collection of many small subsystems that work together to produce a large and complex whole. Ultimately, you spend the most time creating vocabulary.

What are the steps to inventing a new tongue?
First, I decide what ultimately I want the language to look like, and how I want it to work. Once I have an idea of how I want it to work, I create a proto-language about 1,000 or 2,000 years before the state I want, and then I evolve it forwards.

What was the toughest language you've created?
It was difficult to create the Indojisnen language on "Defiance." I spend at least 400 hours on each one, but Indojisnen is definitely the most complicated to work with. It's a polysynthetic language, and it's difficult to get that type of language to come out right without looking fake.

You created the languages from "Game of Thrones": Dothraki, the guttural, rough-sounding tongue spoken by warrior horsemen, and High Valyrian, spoken by the elite. Are those your prized languages?
It's important for me to note that the only reason people know about them is they're a part of an award-winning television series. Many language creators the world over put as much effort as I do into their work — and more — but few have heard of their languages. Some truly astonishing work has been done.

What language are you making next?
I'm working on two languages for the new NBC show "Emerald City," based on "The Wizard of Oz" world.

Your linguistics skills could be handy in trying to make contact with aliens. Would you be happy to do that?
So long as I remain safe and don't catch any alien viruses, I'll be happy to help communicate with aliens. I think it'd be best to make it a team effort. But a language creator would have a lot to offer when it comes to outside-the-box thinking.

You can speak or have a working knowledge of more than 20 real languages. But can you speak the ones you've made up?
Honestly, I'm not fluent in any of the languages I've created. I feel much more comfortable speaking languages I've studied in a classroom setting. Since there are no native speakers of the languages I've invented, there are no courses I can take to help me practice. I know the grammar of all my languages very well, but I'm not very good at speaking them on the fly.

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Aries Long-term investments will pay off. Real estate deals or a home or side business can be lucrative. A disciplined attitude will improve your situation.

Taurus A personal or professional partnership will go through some troubling times. Communication will be required to resolve a personal problem.

Gemini The healthier you are, the easier it will be to deal with life's demands. Proper diet, moderate exercise and sleep will keep you in tip-top shape.

Cancer Delve deeper into topics of interest. Creative pursuits like music, language or art will provide a welcome diversion to your everyday routine.

Leo Frustration and uncertainty will lead to depression. Ask a trusted friend or relative for advice if you are feeling troubled.

Virgo If current events have you stymied, consider reconnecting with someone you found motivating in the past.

Libra Take time to listen. The information you gather will offer valuable insight into something you'll want to pursue.

Scorpio Stop making excuses or blaming others for your lack of progress, and take control of your life. Your future success is your responsibility.

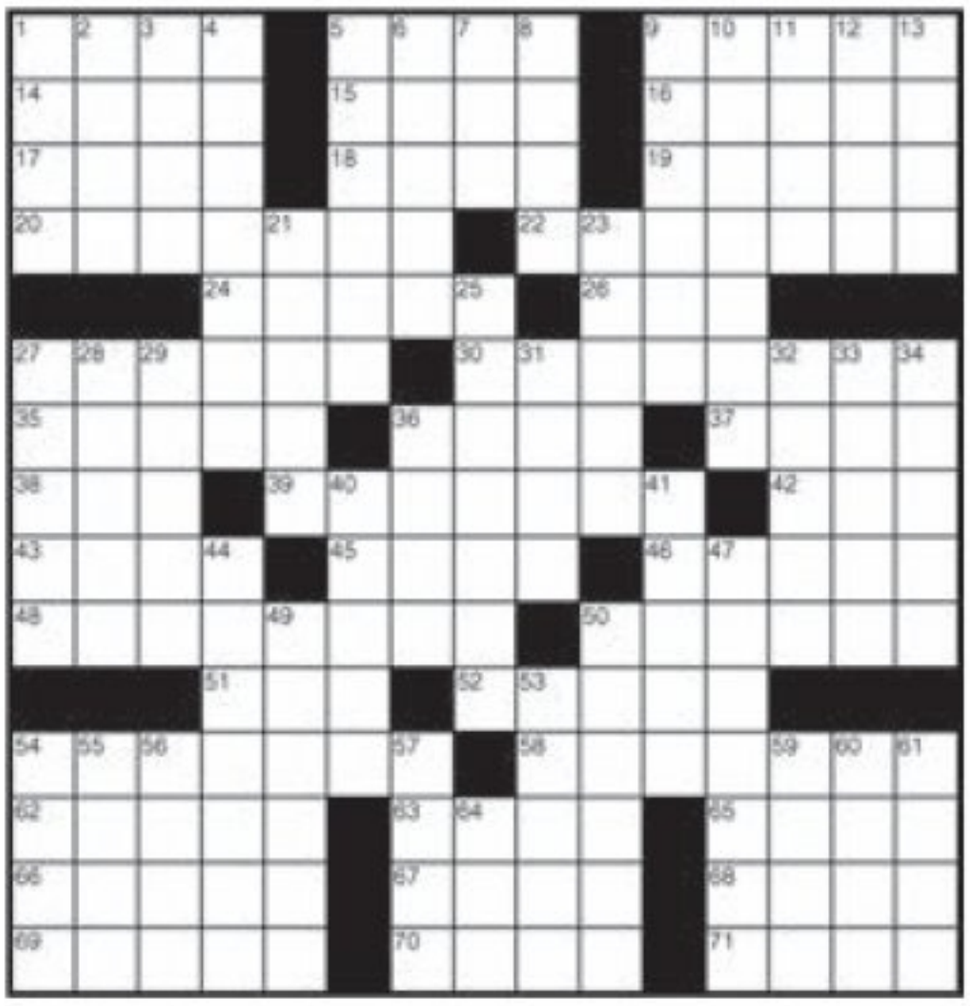
Sagittarius Consider what you can do to make your home environment more enjoyable. Being responsible will help to curb any problems with family.

Capricorn Don't live in the past, or you will miss a golden opportunity. It's up to you to be aware of what's happening and to take advantage of it.

Aquarius You may be known for your honesty and integrity, but your status will suffer if you surround yourself with questionable people.

Pisces Free your mind of the everyday concerns that bring you down. Find an activity that involves all ages, and include friends and family. **EUGENIA LAST**

metro.us/crossword



Across

1 Latch onto
5 Yodeler's answer
9 Tangy
14 "Fancy" singer
15 Conk out
16 Wagner opus
17 F — — foxtrot
18 Off the hook
19 More helpful
20 Grain container
22 Pompous
24 Aluminum source
26 Mrs. Lennon
27 Museum piece
30 Got cozy
35 Consumer advocate
36 Coup d'—
37 Rural structure
38 Every one
39 Pessimistic on Wall Street
42 Bavarian peak
43 Thwart a villain
45 Sinister
46 Think alike
48 Open
50 Over-refined
51 Louis XIV, e.g.
52 Fouled up
54 Annoyed
58 Blah
62 Buenos —
63 Spinach has it
65 Whit
66 Rooster's pride
67 — qua non
68 Festive nights
69 "The Mermaid Tavern" poet
70 Woman on campus
71 Quit working

Down

1 — Zeppelin
2 — -majeste
3 Drama award
4 Edict
5 Blot out
6 Freighter load
7 Rush off
8 Flamenco shouts
9 Urban concern
10 Play wrap-ups (var.)
11 Faction
12 It has rings
13 Cookout spot
21 Book jacket ad
23 Talks up
25 On a bicycle
27 Big mix-up
28 Hawk's gripper
29 Improvise (hyph.)
31 Hit dead-center
32 Polygraph flunkers
33 Cherbourg shes
34 A bit obtuse
36 Gutter locale
40 Hair-raising
41 Sultan's menage
44 Guinness category
47 More lightheaded
49 Drags out of bed
50 Did an orchard chore
53 Geneva's river
54 Wolf gang?
55 Onetime Trevi Fountain coins
56 Type of rug
57 Part of CD
59 Drift here and yon
60 Sporty trucks
61 Pole on a ship
64 "Road" movie locale

For crossword answers, go to **metro.us/crossword-answers**

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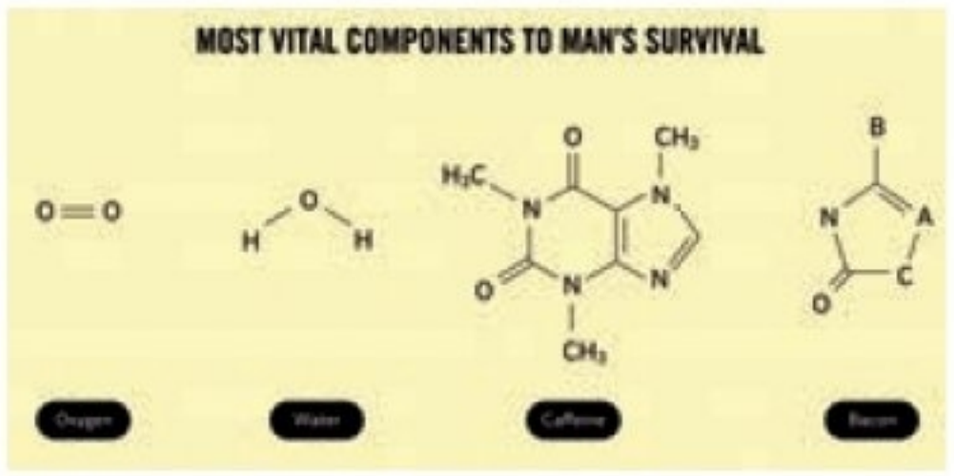

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easy

3	6		2				1	
7	1		3		6			8
	8				1			4
		5	1		7			
				3				
			4		2	6		
2			9				5	
9			6		3		7	2
	7				8		3	6

hard

	7	8	5		3			
	2						7	
6			2			9		
		7			9		3	4
2		6				5		9
3	8		1			6		
		2			5			1
	6						5	
			3		6	4	9	

metro.us/quiz
Who Said It: Bernie Sanders or Larry David?

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MATT MCGRAW
Remodeling project
For now, Hanks grows about 20 percent of the herbs she uses for Terra Luna, like lavender, rosemary and thyme, but the goal is to remodel her concrete Fishtown backyard into a thriving garden that not only provides space to cultivate all of the herbs she needs, but can also be a site for hosting low-cost Herbalism 101 classes for the community. Hanks is raising money for the project through Indiegogo and working with local landscapers Bluebird Native Plants, who aim to restore spaces using local plant species, and incorporate found materials into their designs.
home
LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE

Your herb garden winter survival guide

Hanks crafts herbal products, like sweet cocktail syrups. PROVIDED

Elise Hanks of Terra Luna tells us how to take care of herbs when the temps drop.

MADELINE PRESLAND
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

As long as you have a windowsill, a plastic pot and a little potting soil, your outdoor herb garden can survive the winter, promises Elise Hanks — just bring it inside.

Hanks runs Terra Luna Herbals, selling small-batch herbal products like cocktail syrups and sage sticks through Etsy and at local shops near her Fishtown home. She started out growing veggies but switched to herbs after taking classes in herbalism — the medicinal use of plants — at the now-closed Herbiary in Chestnut Hill.

Hanks tells us how to transfer our gardens to the great indoors and keep them going strong, even when we're shivering.

Know if you even need to bring it in: "Philadelphia's [hardiness] zone is 6–7. It factors in average temperatures and when the ground freezes. If you're planting a bulb — tulips, tuber vegetables — you can plant that any time before the ground freezes in the winter, and then it'll grow in the spring."

Don't rush it: "A couple of days before bringing the herbs in, cover them with landscape fabric or plastic to mimic the new environment inside. Give them time to adjust.

What to plant

Hanks names rosemary as her favorite hardy, useful herb. "It tastes good, it's easy to grow, it's anti-inflammatory, it's known to be good for your memory and it's a perennial," she says. "If you take care of it, you can keep it going for many years. I use it almost every day."

[Once inside,] put them on a windowsill with either direct or indirect sunlight."

Use the right container: "It's better to have herbs in a plastic pot instead of terracotta because the clay can dry out the plant a little faster. And use loose potting soil."

Or put it in a jar first: "You can cut the stem and put it in water to stimulate root growth. Once you see the roots growing in the water, you can plant it. It's a good way to propagate without collecting seeds. You can do that with succulents or cacti."

Bring the sunshine in: "[Set up] lights on timers to simulate sunlight."

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Sausage Mummies Resting in Peas

Directions:

1 Prepare pastry.
Preheat oven to 400°F. Bring puff pastry to room temperature. On a lightly floured surface, roll puff pastry to even out. Cut into ½-inch strips (you might have a little extra pastry).

2 Wrap mummies.
Beat egg in a small bowl to make an egg wash. Using a brush (or your fingers), lightly brush pastry strips with egg wash. Use 4 strips to wrap each of the sausages, overlapping as you go, to cover most of the sausage (but don't forget to leave a space for the eyes!).

3 Bake mummies.
Brush wrapped mummy dogs with egg wash and arrange on a parchment-lined rimmed baking sheet. Bake until golden brown, 20–25 minutes.

4 Make peas.
Meanwhile, trim root from shallot. Halve, peel, and thinly slice. Strip leaves from thyme sprigs. Heat 1 tablespoon oil in a large skillet over medium-high. Add shallot and thyme. Cook, stirring, until soft, 3 minutes. Season with ground pepper and ½ teaspoon salt.

5 Finish peas and spinach.
Add peas, cream cheese and ½ cup water. Bring to a simmer and stir until cream cheese is dissolved, about 3 minutes. Add spinach and ¼ cup water and cook, tossing gently, until spinach is wilted and sauce is creamy and coats the vegetables, about 2 minutes.

6 Serve.
Open a small corner of a mustard or ketchup packet and dot 2 eyes on each of the mummies. Serve mummy dogs on top of peas and spinach. Enjoy!

Recipe

MARLEY SPOON

We couldn't resist this twist on pigs in a blanket. Brooklyn Cured's smoked beef and cheddar sausages get the mummification treatment with prepared puff pastry. Don't skip the egg wash — it gives the pastry sheen, but also helps it stick together during wrapping. Creamy peas and spinach are a mellow complement to the savory sausages. Cook, relax and enjoy!

Cooking time: 35 minutes
Attributes: beef (sausages)
Calories: 975 kcal/person (2.5 portions)
Allergens: gluten, milk

What we send
- 1 sheet puff pastry (8.7 oz)
- 4 smoked beef and cheddar sausages (Brooklyn Cured, 12 oz)
- 1 shallot (2 oz)
- fresh thyme (0.3 oz)
- 10 oz frozen peas
- 2 oz cream cheese
- 2 oz spinach
- 1 oz ketchup (3 packets)
- 1 oz mustard (3 packets)

What you need
- 1 large egg
- all-purpose flour
- olive oil
- coarse salt
- freshly ground pepper

Equipment
- pastry or silicone brush
- rimmed baking sheet
- large skillet

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Kate Spade launches home line

We'll take everything in this living room, please. ALL PHOTOS PROVIDED

Take a sneak peek at the brand's glam new décor.

TINA CHADHA
@TinaatMetro
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say hello to

Georgia Chair

Nealy table lamp

Downing Desk

Georgia Bench

For those who love Kate Spade's kelly-green and shocking-pink desk set or glitzy black-and-gold salt and pepper shakers, prepare to have a field day on your Pinterest board. The whimsical and feminine brand — which never shies away from a bow and considers leopard print "neutral" — is expanding its footprint in the décor world with furniture, lighting and rugs.

The full line won't be available until spring, but 60 items are already up on KateSpade.com. Here are a few you'll see on our boards.

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Eagles defense leading team to wins, just like the good old days

They may not be as good as the Jim Johnson defenses of the early 2000s, but they've led the Eagles to first place in the NFC East.

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When Chip Kelly took over the Eagles in 2013, the team had an explosive and dominant offense and lackluster defense and special teams.

Two years later, uncharacteristically for a Kelly-led squad, the Birds board one of the best special teams units in the NFL and a defense that is second in the league in takeaways with 16.

"We take a lot of pride in our play," Eagles safety Walter Thurmond said after Monday's 27-7 win over the Giants. "We have a lot of great players on the defensive side of the ball. Our front seven has been playing great this season with stopping the run and getting after the passer. The secondary is playing some sound football and making a lot of plays out there. We just go out there and do our jobs.

Brandon Graham had several key tackles Monday, including half a sack, and a big fourth-down stuff. GETTY IMAGES

"We're focused on turnovers and points allowed. ... that's what the best defenses do."
Eagles defensive coordinator Billy Davis

"We always get overlooked playing defense. When you play defense, that is going to happen because it's an offensive league. We understand that we just have to do what we need to do to make the necessary plays."

The Eagles caused three turnovers and sacked Eli Manning three times. But more impressive than that was the Birds' ability to bounce back after an early touchdown drive to open the game.

Philly's defense got the crowd back into it quickly with two key interceptions — a Nolan Carroll III pick-six and DeMeco Ryans' momentum-changing interception.

"It was huge. The sideline went crazy," Ryans said of his interception. He would later add a fumble recovery. "That's great to see, especially when you're the guy making the play. It's great to see the response from not only the defense, but from the entire team. It was crazy."

The Eagles have forced seven turnovers over the last two games and 12 over the last four. They also have a 12-game turnover streak.

Philly has also not allowed a 100-yard rusher in its last 18 games and one in its last 29 games. With the red-hot Panthers next up on Sunday night, the Eagles defense will be key once again.

"We have the Carolina Panthers, an undefeated team, in their house," Kelly said. "So even though we got a great win, there are a lot of things that we have to clean up if we want to beat a really good team in the Carolina Panthers in a short week."

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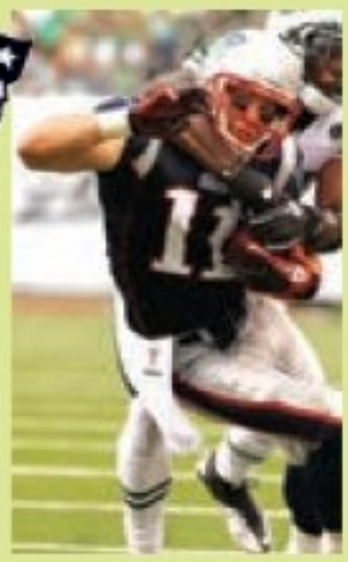
NFL power rankings | by Luke Miller

No. 1

Patriots (5-0)



Deflategate revenge? Just another game in the win column if you ask the Pats. They are 5-0 for the first time since their ill-fated 16-0 regular season in 2007, which came after Spygate. Memo for the NFL: Offseason controversies lead to undefeated Patriots teams.

No. 2

Packers (6-0)

Aaron Rodgers began his next two years without an interception at home streak, and the Packers got their closest win of the season with a big goal line stand. The invisibility of Eddie Lacy has to be concerning; he's only topped 50 rushing yards twice, and has yet to carry the ball 20 times in a game.

No. 3

Bengals (6-0)

Cincinnati is playing so well they look like the Cardinals do when the Cardinals play bad teams. Andy Dalton is on pace for somewhere between five and six interceptions, less than half what he's thrown in any previous season. Sign me up. I believe.

No. 4

Broncos (6-0)

If we just copy and paste, "The defense is as good as any defense we've seen, but the offense is miserable," in here every week, does that work going forward? The optimistic take is that the Broncos finally got the run game going with 152 yards on the ground.

No. 5

Panthers (5-0)

The Panthers kept being the team that just wins this week. Greg Olsen is off to a big start as Cam Newton's best (only?) receiving threat, and caught the game-winner to complete his second 130 yard receiving day of the season. They host the resurgent Eagles on Sunday night.

No. 6

Steelers (4-2)

Who needs Ben Roethlisberger to Antonio Brown when you have Landry Jones to Martavis Bryant? The Steelers, now 2-1 without Big Ben, are looking more and more like one of the class teams of the NFL once he gets back in the fold. He remains sidelined with a knee injury.

No. 7

Cardinals (4-2)

The Cardinals have lost two games in almost the exact opposite method they've won their other four. Carson Palmer Arizona's victories as thrown for 12 touchdowns and just two interceptions. Palmer in the team's two setbacks has thrown two touchdowns, three picks.

No. 8

Jets (4-1)

Is Ryan Fitzpatrick suddenly a help and not a hindrance to the Jets' season? If they're this good on defense, can pound the rock with Chris Ivory and have good quarterback play ... well, we'll know more after they head to Foxboro to face the top-ranked Patriots.

No. 9

Falcons (5-1)

Devonta Freeman is the surprise of the season, but it's yet more surprising that Atlanta is content giving him 13 carries, especially considering every other player with a carry fumbled Thursday. After 34 receptions in the Falcons' first three games, Julio Jones has 15 in the last three.

No. 10

Vikings (3-2)

Rookie Stefon Diggs' emergence as a receiving threat (216 yards in the last two games) may finally give opponents something to worry about besides Adrian Peterson. And it may be just in time, if teams are going to focus on just shutting down the run like Kansas City did Sunday.

No. 13

Eagles (3-3)

Six weeks into the season and the Eagles appear to be the team least desperate to not be in first in the NFC East. DeMarco Murray recorded his third straight game of over 10 yards rushing, as the run game in Philly is finally starting to click.

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Six of Riley Cooper's 12 touchdowns since 2013 have covered 30 yards or more. Only eight NFL players have more such plays in that span. GETTY IMAGES

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MACNOW: EAGLES DON'T FEEL LIKE A FIRST-PLACE TEAM

Ladies and gentlemen, your first-place Philadelphia Eagles!

It sure doesn't feel that way, right? The team that beat the Giants, 27-7, Monday night didn't evoke greatness or prompt you to start booking passage to San Francisco for February's Super Bowl 50.

But here we are, six weeks in, and first place is first place — even when it's 3-3 with two division losses. The NFC East has become the modern version of hockey's old Norris Division, with once-proud historic franchises scuffling under .500. Someone's got to win the damn pennant, and right now I like the Eagles' chances.

And while Monday night's stumble-fest will never be looped on a highlight reel at the Hall of Fame in Canton, there were encouraging aspects. Start with the defense. No one will ever confuse Billy Davis with Jim Johnson — or Buddy Ryan for that matter. But Monday marked two straight excellent efforts.

Eli Manning sliced through them on the opening drive in a half-empty stadium, as Eagles fans were still enduring the frisk-fest that is now part of every public event. But after that? The guys in all-black owned the night. Good Eli became Bad Eli (the one who still gets cable). The defense forced three sacks, two interceptions, one lost fumble — all against a Giants offense that had allowed just four sacks and two interceptions all season. So much for that blather about Eli's invincible quick release.

243

IS DEMARCO MURRAY FINALLY ROUNDING INTO FORM? THE HIGH-PRICED FORMER COWBOY NOW HAS 243 ALL-PURPOSE YARDS COMBINED IN HIS LAST TWO GAMES.

This D shows signs of becoming special, with Jordan Hicks (10 tackles) as a potential Rookie of the Year and Fletcher Cox as the 9-foot monster in the middle. It's an aggressive, ball-hawking unit. The secondary is far less prone to stupidity than we saw in the Cary Williams-Nate Allen era.

On defense and special teams, these Eagles can win the NFC East going away. And 341 rushing yards in the last two wins suggests the Murray-Mathews-Sproles three-headed monster has finally hatched.

Which leads us, unfortunately, to Quarterback Sam. There were other concerns Monday — notably the continued dropsies by wide receivers and the mind-boggling decline of Jason Kelce. But the biggest concern, again, was Bradford.

He threw three more interceptions — including yet another in the Red Zone — and each time you wondered, "What the hell was he thinking?" These weren't great defensive plays by the Giants, nor Bradford aiming the ball through a tight hole. These were throws where no Eagle was in the neighborhood.

Chip Kelly covered for his skittish quarterback, as coaches do, saying the interceptions stemmed from communication errors between thrower and receiver. Maybe so. But six weeks into a season, this nonsense shouldn't happen.

So we move ahead. The Eagles have emerged from a 1-3 start, and you just hope Bradford doesn't steer them back into the ditch. This may not feel like first place — it certainly doesn't feel like a Super Bowl contender. But we've got a season now, and that's a lot better than it felt two weeks ago.

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